

# State chiefs meet to talk energy efficiency

## Huntsman and his counterparts forming recommendations for new president

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WASHINGTON - Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. joined with his counterparts from across the nation this weekend to hammer out a recommendation to the next president on improving energy efficiency and weaning the country off foreign fuel sources.

Huntsman, who met in governors-only sessions at the National Governors Association conference in Washington, said he hoped to see the group pass on a litany of suggestions to the next president on improving the nation's use and production of energy sources.

The Utah governor said in an interview that the NGA hopes the recommendation would be "something that we could leave on the doorstep of the newly elected president and the secretary of energy, whoever that might be."

The policy statement hits on energy efficiency and climate change and details what governors are doing in their own states to attack those problems. The recommendation does not force Utah or any state to follow any regulations but instead suggests how the country could become a world leader in energy efficiency.

Governors on Saturday discussed the role of traditional electricity sources in the nation's energy future, according to the NGA, and heard from utility companies on their plan to infuse a mix of coal, nuclear and renewable energy sources to meet the growing need for power.

Huntsman said Utah - where renewable energy resources account for about 322.7 megawatts of electricity generation in the state - has already tapped into the types of suggestions being made by the NGA. The state produces energy through wind, biomass, geothermal and hydro production.

"It's actually very consistent with what we are doing," Huntsman said. "A lot of other states are not yet doing [them], but we're kind of already on the vanguard of a lot of these recommendations. And we're trying to pick up the pace a bit."

Huntsman is the incoming president of the Western Governors Association, which is pitching the Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative. That plan suggests a 20 percent boost in energy efficiency by 2020. Huntsman takes over as head of the WGA this summer.

In addition to the energy policy, governors are scheduled to chat today and Monday about the nation's surface transportation policy and finance systems, and improving struggling schools.

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WASHINGTON - Governors pushing alternative energy development are not shying from coal, a major culprit in global warming but also a homegrown energy source and an economic lifeline for many states.

Leaders of coal-rich states say clean-coal technology is a must.

"Next-generation coal is going to need to continue to be part of our energy future for this country," said GOP Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota, chairman of the National Governors Association.

Next-generation coal refers to capturing and sequestering or storing the carbon that coal produces. The NGA also envisions reducing or eliminating emissions as coal is burned.

Clean-coal technology is a rallying cry for many coal-producing states. They say it is possible to continue relying on the fossil fuel while minimizing its impact on the environment.